network devices over the link interface **106** while the remainder of the network device (e.g., the core processor **102**, core memory **104**, etc.) are powered down).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 11, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

In particular, as shown in Fig. 2, <u>a processor **202** and core memory</u> <u>**204** are included,</u> the driver software link integrity module **110** shown in Fig. 1 is eliminated, and a hardware link integrity module **100** is permanently enabled. While the hardware link integrity module **100** is shown as being permanently powered by D3 backup power, power to the hardware link integrity module **100** may be switched to system power when the network device **250** is in a non-powered down state.